

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/753,336

Examiner

Dieu-Minh Le

Applicant(s)

COATES ET AL.

Art Unit

2114

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the communication filed 2/06/06 & interview on 03/09/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-4,6-8,10,12-14,16-17,19-21 [now as 1-15].
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

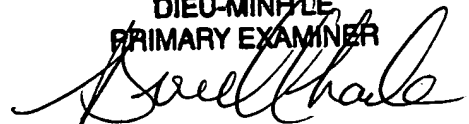
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date See Continuation Sheet
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

DIEU-MINH LE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date: 12/26/2006; 12/27/2006; 11/20/2006; 2/6/2006; 6/13/2006; and 4/3/2006.

Art Unit: 2114

1. This office action is in response to the communication filed on 02/06/2006 and Interview on 03/09/2007.

2. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-8, 10, 12-14, 16-17, 19-21 [now as 1-15] are allowable over the prior art of record [claims 2, 5, 9, 11, 15 and 18 have been canceled].

3. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT:**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace all prior versions of claims in the application with the current listing claims in the **ATTACHMENT:**

4. Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Caroline M. Fleming, Registration No. 45,566 on 03/09/2007.

Art Unit: 2114

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dieu-Minh Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-3660. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Scott Baderman can be reached on (571)272-3644. The Tech Center 2100 phone number is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**DIEU-MINH THAI LE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 2114**

DML.

03/15/2007

Art Unit: 2114

**ATTACHMENT:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
  - a remote storage center for storing a plurality of files in a local file system;
  - a local computer for utilizing at least one file stored at said remote storage center;
  - a first local device, coupled to said local computer and to said remote storage center, for operating as an active storage port, said active storage port for receiving file system operation requests on said file from said local computer, and for translating the file system operation requests to local file system requests including a file identifier associated with contents of the file to uniquely identify the file stored at the remote storage center, said local computer and said first local device being coupled through a communications mechanisms, said active storage port further comprises a network interface, to couple said active storage port to said passive storage port, and processes to monitor the health of said active storage port and to enter said failover condition if said health falls below a pre-determined threshold; and
  - a second local device, coupled to said local computer and to said storage center, for operating as a passive storage port, said passive storage port for switching to said active storage port during a failover condition, said local computer and said second local device being coupled through said communications mechanism utilized by said first local device, said passive storage port further comprises a network interface, to couple said passive storage port to said active storage port, and processes to query said active storage port to obtain a status of said health of said active storage port; and
  - additional local devices to support a 2N failover configuration of storage ports, wherein "N" represents any integer value.
2. Canceled.

Art Unit: 2114

3. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said communications mechanism comprises:
  - a network;
  - said first local device comprises a network interface that communicates on said network using a network address; and
  - said second local device comprises a network interface that communicates on said network after a the failover condition using said network address of said first local device.
4. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said communications mechanism further comprises a network file system, such that said local computer exports said local file system using said network address to conduct said file system operations.
5. Canceled.
6. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said active storage port comprises a data cache, for storing said file, and a directory cache for storing file system information on said file.
7. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 6, wherein said first local device and said second local device further comprise network interfaces for communicating to said storage center.
8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
  - first local device for operating as an active storage port for a remote storage center that stores at least one file in a local file system, said active storage port for receiving file system operation requests for said file, for generating information for said file system operation, and for translating the file system operation requests to local file system requests including a file identifier associated with contents of the file to uniquely identify

Art Unit: 2114

the file stored at the remote storage center, said first local device being accessed through a communications mechanism, said first local device further comprises a network interface, to couple said first local device to said second local device, and processes to monitor health of said first local device and to enter said failover condition if said health falls below a pre-determined threshold; and

second local device for operating as a passive storage port, said passive storage port for switching to said active storage port during a failover condition to said active storage port, said second local device being accessed through said communications mechanism utilized by said first local device, said second local device further comprises a network interface, to couple said second local device to said first local device, and processes to query said first local device to obtain a status of said health of said first local device; and

additional local devices to support a 2N failover configuration of storage ports, wherein "N" represents any integer value.

9. Canceled.

10. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein said communications mechanism comprises:

a network;

said first local device comprises a network interface that communicates on said network using a network address; and

said second local device comprises a network interface that communicates on said network after a failover condition using said network address of said first local device.

11. Canceled.

12. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein said first local device and said second local device comprise a data cache, for storing said file, and a directory cache for storing file system information on said file.

13. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein said first local device and said second local device further comprise network interfaces for communicating to said storage center.
14. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a storage system for failover operation, said method comprising:
  - storing a plurality of files in a local file system in a remote storage center;
  - utilizing at least one file stored at said remote storage center in a local computer;
  - coupling a first local device to said local computer and to said remote storage center;
  - operating said first local device as an active storage port by receiving file system operating requests for said file from said local computer, by transferring information for said file system operations and by translating the file system operation requests to local file system requests including a file identifier associated with contents of the file to uniquely identify the file stored at the remote storage center;
  - transferring information between said local computer and said first local device via a communication mechanism;
  - coupling a second local device to said local computer and to said remote storage center;
  - operating said a second local device as a passive storage port by switching said second device to an active storage port to execute a failover condition in said first local device; and
  - transferring information between said local computer and said second local device via said communication mechanism; and
  - coupling additional local devices to support a 2N failover configuration of storage ports, wherein "N" represents any integer value; and
  - coupling said first local device to said second local device;
  - monitoring the health of said active storage port;



submitting a query from said passive storage port to said active storage port to obtain a status of said health of active storage port; and  
entering said failover condition if said health falls below a pre-determined threshold.

15. Canceled.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein:

transferring information between said local computer and said first local device via a communication mechanism comprises transferring information over a network using a network address; and

transferring information between said local computer and said second local device via a communication mechanism comprises transferring information over a said network using said network address of said first local device.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein:

transferring information between said local computer and said first local device via a communication mechanism comprises transferring information over a network using a network address;

transferring information between said local computer and said second local device via a communication mechanism comprises transferring information over a network using said network address of said first local device; and

exporting a network file system of said local computer over said network using said network address.

18. Canceled.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 14, further comprising caching, in said active storage port, data for said file and file system information on said file.

Art Unit: 2114

20. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 14, further comprising coupling said active storage port to said storage center to receive data for said file and file system information on said file.
21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the first local device and the second local device each further comprise:
  - a network interface capable of being coupled to the remote storage center;
  - a client interface capable of being coupled to the local computer; and
  - a cache capable of storing information at the storage port accessed from the remote storage.